

Mississippi Crop Situation 2010

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This Week's Crop Report

National Agriculture Statistics Services (Mississippi) Crop Progress for Week Ending 9/19/2010

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5- Year Average
Corn Mature	100	100	100	100
Corn Harvested	99	96	79	86
Cotton – Open Bolls	95	92	69	84
Cotton Harvested	37	19	0	13
Peanuts Harvested	15	8	0	7
Rice Mature	99	98	93	93
Rice Harvested	79	67	28	48
Sorghum Mature	100	100	99	98
Sorghum Harvested	92	87	46	80
Soybeans Turning Color	93	90	77	90
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	79	75	55	77
Soybeans Harvested	55	50	29	52
Wheat Planted	2	0	0	1

Wheat Planting Issues

Dr. Erick Larson

Wheat seed supply is very tight this fall, largely a byproduct of inclimate weather last fall, which restricted and delayed seedbed preparation (and all other farming operations), ultimately reducing wheat plantings and seed production, as well as the unpredictability of crop acreage change. Since intentions for wheat plantings far exceed the availability of best varieties, management will play an even more important role in the profitability of this crop.



Wheat Planting Guidelines

Dr. Erick Larson

Variety Selection – The first order of business is to do is make sure your seed is an adapted variety, let alone a top-performer. Since interest in wheat production far exceeds seed supply, many folks have questioned about growing wheat varieties from other regions, particularly varieties from the Soft red winter wheat growing region north of us. Wheat varieties are specifically bred and adapted to perform in a specific environment. The winter wheat climate changes considerably from the Deep South, the Mid-South and the Ohio-River Valley, and correspondingly wheat varieties are largely exclusively adapted for each of those regions. Not only will varieties generally lose substantial productivity when they are grown beyond their adapted region, but they are also prone to severe crop failure. Varieties adapted south of your locale are more likely to experience severe spring freeze damage because they generally head earlier. Varieties adapted north of your locale may not accumulate enough cold temperature (<50°F) during the winter to stimulate reproductive development during the spring - a process called vernalization. If we experience a brief or warm winter, northern varieties may fail to completely vernalize. This means plants simply fail to head and cause a catastrophic loss. Another issue is that wheat varieties commonly have different photoperiod requirement to stimulate heading. Thus, a northern variety may not meet its photoperiod requirement to head until several weeks beyond our normal heading dates. Correspondingly, productivity will suffer significantly because it will try to fill grain when temperatures are much higher than normal in the region it was bred to grow. A good rule of thumb is that if a wheat variety has not been tested in the MSU Variety trials and/or other adjoining states at similar latitude as your farm, it likely will not be well-adapted.

Figure 1. This Mississippi wheat field failed to receive enough cold weather to adequately vernalize and produced only an occasional head during 2009.



The Importance of Timely Planting to High Wheat Yields – Planting wheat early is very tempting, but it likely limits wheat grain productivity more than any other factor. In fact, records from the Kentucky Wheat Production Contest (where winners typically produce more than 100 bushels per acre) rarely show growers planting prior to the recommended dates. Planting wheat early needlessly exposes it to developmental, fertility, weed and numerous pest problems which ultimately limit yield potential. Our mild southern winters further intensify this issue, because the onset and degree of dormancy may vary considerably from year to year. Thus, the developmental advantages gained from planting summer crops early, such as corn and soybeans, do not apply to winter wheat. The adverse effects from excessive fall growth include spring freeze injury, development of Barley yellow dwarf virus, Hessian fly and armyworm infestation, more disease infection, more weed competition, poor nutrient use, and increased lodging. In fact, growers in north and south Mississippi experienced severe freeze injury during recent seasons - only the central Delta region has escaped serious damage. Yield loss resulting from spring freeze injury normally increases drastically with early-maturing wheat. Thus, we need to carefully manage variety maturity and planting date, as both these factors affect wheat maturity. Early-maturing varieties should be planted later than normal, to avoid excessive development, which could expose them to substantial freeze damage in the spring. Conversely, late-maturing wheat varieties should be planted before early varieties. We should also plant multiple varieties differing in maturity, to spread risk, since temperatures also influence maturity.

Figure 2. Early-planted wheat is prone to disappoint, due to many issues, including freeze injury.



Optimum Wheat Planting Dates – Mississippi’s suggested wheat planting dates (within 10-14 days of the average first fall freeze date) should provide warm enough temperatures and long enough days for seedling emergence and tillering to begin before dormancy occurs. This can vary depending upon seasonal temperatures, but normally corresponds to:

North & Central Mississippi:	October 15 - November 10
Delta Region:	October 20 - November 15
South Mississippi:	November 1 - November 25
Coastal Region:	November 15 - December 10

Seeding Rates and Methods – Considering this season’s seed shortage issues, I highly recommend planting your crop with a grain drill, compared to more rudimentary broadcast planting methods, in order to optimize stand establishment, vigor and seedling survival. Furthermore, by planting using good practices and sound management, you can reduce your wheat seeding rate considerably without reducing productivity. While it is important to strive for specific planting standards, wheat does have outstanding capability to compensate for wide variation of plant density. Our normal planting recommendation is to strive to establish 1.0 to 1.3 million wheat plants/acre or 23 to 30 plants/ft.². However, if you plant with a modern drill at the optimal time in a well-prepared seedbed and are committed to actively managing wheat during the fall, you can likely reduce your stand goal to about 650,000 plants/acre without reducing productivity. Wheat seed size can range from 11,000 to 18,000 seeds per pound (should be noted on the tag), so you should base seeding rate on the number of seeds (seeds per pound), rather than on the volume or weight of the seeds (bushels per acre) – particularly since seed supply is short. Using these strategies may reduce your seeding rate by more than 50% and/or allow you to plant better varieties on twice as many acres.

Figure 3. Wheat may readily compensate for plant density, if it is a uniform, healthy stand.



Fall Weed Control - A burndown herbicide applied prior to planting and/or before crop emergence is essential to eliminate weed competition during emergence and early tillering stages, if weeds are present in a no-tillage system. Tillage may also serve the same purpose in conventionally prepared seedbeds. In fact, tillage may be the most practical option to control volunteer Roundup Ready corn prior to planting wheat. Maintaining a weed-free environment during planting and stand establishment is essential because weeds are very competitive with young wheat plants, particularly if they emerge before or at a similar time as the wheat crop. Likewise, abundant populations of quick-starting weeds, including henbit and annual bluegrass, may intensely compete with wheat during the fall, despite their small stature. Of course, ryegrass remains a foremost problem. I encourage you to use fall-applied herbicides to control these weeds during the fall, if they are thick, because competition will rob valuable nutrients and reduce wheat tillering. Thus, fewer wheat heads will be produced next spring. Fall weed control is particularly important, if you employ the conservative seeding rate strategy mentioned

previously. There are several herbicide options labeled for either pre-plant, preemergence or early postemergence use on wheat which offer residual weed control, so if you would like some assistance with these, we would be happy to help. I believe exclusive reliance on spring-applied postemergence herbicides and late timing is one of the key management areas where we often leave a lot of wheat yield potential on the table. Unimpeded weed competition during southern winters are even more important in the south, compared to further north, because more winter weed growth is likely during our modest winters. 2,4-D should not be applied early postemergence to wheat in the fall, because wheat is intolerant during seedling and early tillering stages.

Figure 4. Delaying control of abundant fall-emerging weeds until the spring will substantially reduce wheat tillering and grain yield potential.



Market Briefs

Dr. John Michael Riley

Weak Economic News Weighs On Prices

Crop prices have slowed from the mild euphoria experienced on the heels of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report released two weeks ago. Prices have begun to slip over the past four to five days with some renewed weakness in the general economy rearing its ugly head yet again. Jobless claims were higher than expected this week which pushed markets lower however equities appear to be rebounding a bit in early trading on Friday. A bright spot for commodities is the weakening US dollar which will likely have some positive ramifications for exports. Exports have proven to be a tremendous catalyst throughout 2010 and the current weak dollar should prolong that concept further. Tight global supplies for many crops

is the other bright spot in the markets. Wheat, rice, cotton, and corn look to have small ending stocks moving into next year's inventory and that will also provide support as it has already shown.

Futures Market Summary (Thursday close)

	Soybeans	chg*	Corn	chg*	Wheat	chg*	Rough Rice ¹	chg*	Cotton ²	chg*
Oct-2010									97.77	0.16
Nov-2010	1093 1/2¢	25					\$12.09	0.01		
Dec-2010			499 1/4¢	-14	697 1/4¢	-42			97.17	-1.05
Jan-2011	1103 1/4¢	25					\$12.35	0.01		
Mar-2011	1110 3/4¢	26	512 1/4¢	-14	728 1/4¢	-40	\$12.61	0.01	96.38	-0.90
May-2011	1113 1/2¢	25	518 1/4¢	-13	738 3/4¢	-39	\$12.89	0.02	96.11	-0.37
Jul-2011	1117 1/4¢	24	521 1/4¢	-12	728 1/4¢	-19	\$13.17	0.02	95.56	0.36
Aug-2011	1108 1/2¢	24								
Sep-2011	1091 1/4¢	23	496 1/4¢	-4	737 3/4¢	-15	\$13.14	-0.05		

¹ Dollars per hundredweight

² Cents per pound

* Change from last Friday

Source: Chicago Board of Trade and Intercontinental Exchange; except where noted prices are cents per bushel

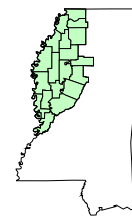
Weather Update

Ms. Nancy Lopez



MS Delta Weekly Weather Briefing
OCE/WAOB Stoneville Field Office
September 23, 2010

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/mississippi>

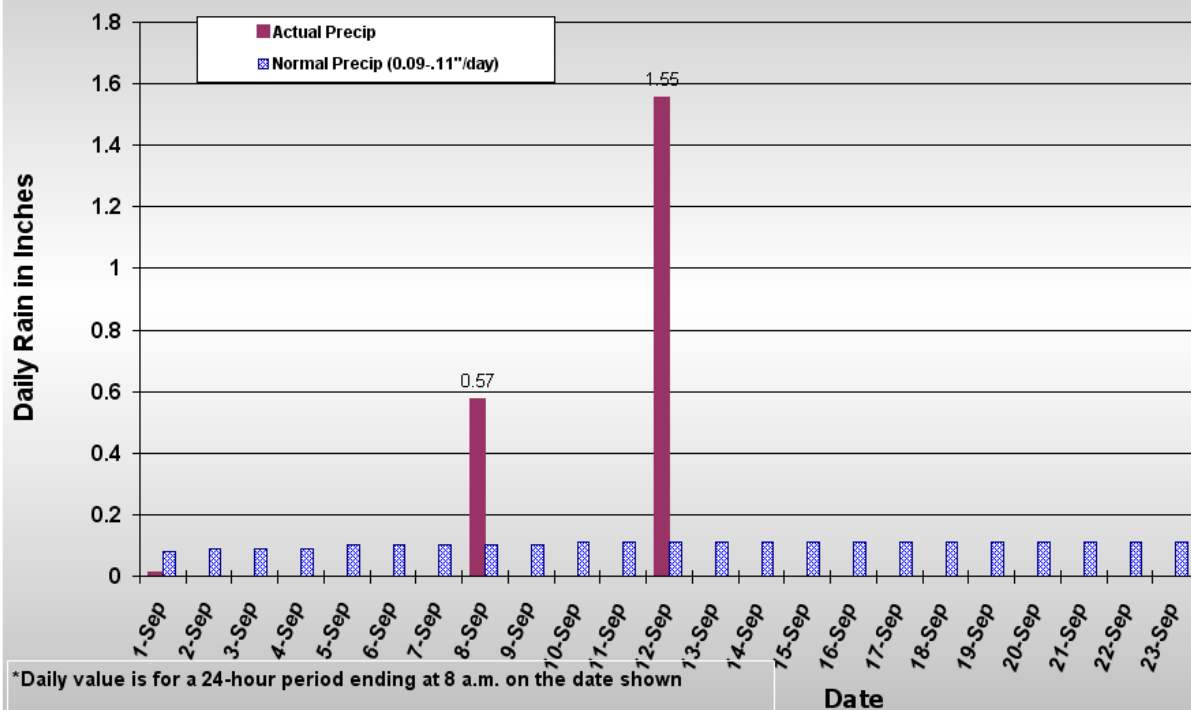


WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION

A couple more days of above-average heat are expected before a weekend cold front allows average, and even a few cooler-than-average, temperatures by next week. A strong ridge of high pressure that has kept the region in a persistent pattern of unusual heat, is finally expected to weaken. That change accompanied with cooler upper air support will allow a cold front to move in and allow for moisture return, so expect rainfall from the change as well. The weekend cold front could arrive and produce rain anywhere from late Saturday into Sunday, with thunderstorms producing anywhere from .50 inches to 1.50 inches, with possibly locally-heavier amounts of rain, per the HPC (Hydrometeorological Prediction Center).

The area needs the rain. There have only been two episodes this month that Stoneville received rain totaling 2.13 inches. While the monthly norm is 3.19 inches, coupled with the persistent heat and dryness in past months, the drought continues to worsen. July's rainfall was 1.89 inches, August was .24 inches, and summing September's 2.13 inches against the 30-year normal puts those summer months at 4.26 inches, or almost 5 inches below the 30-year normal of 9.10 inches.

2010 Daily Actual vs. Normal Precipitation* Stoneville, MS

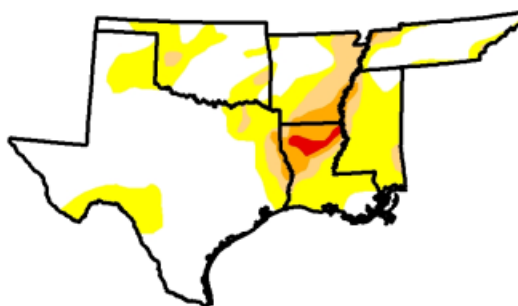


U.S. Drought Monitor South

September 21, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	58.0	42.0	12.7	5.1	0.8	0.0
Last Week (09/14/2010 map)	65.7	34.3	12.8	5.1	0.8	0.0
3 Months Ago (06/29/2010 map)	69.0	31.0	14.1	5.2	1.5	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/05/2010 map)	86.3	13.7	3.5	1.2	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/06/2009 map)	81.9	18.1	11.3	7.3	3.4	0.7
One Year Ago (09/22/2009 map)	76.3	23.7	14.4	11.5	7.8	1.9



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

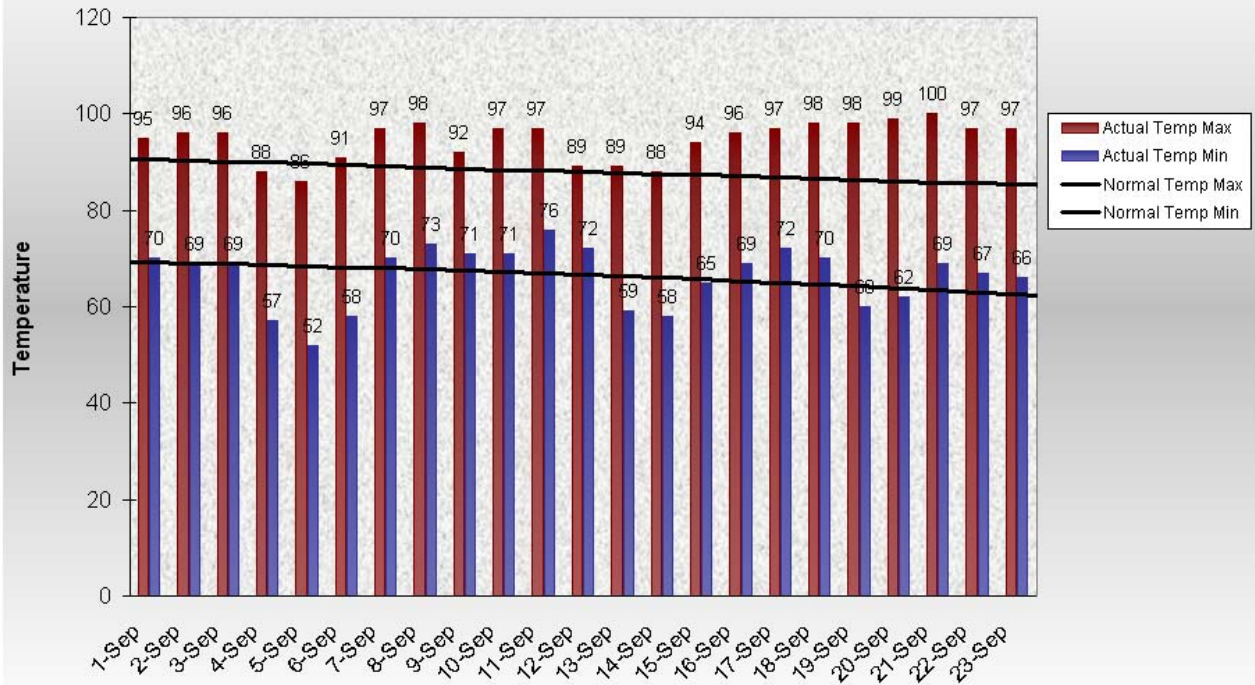
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, September 23, 2010
Author: Richard Heim, NCDC/NOAA

There has been no additional rainfall in Stoneville since September 12, but a weekend cold front is expected to change that situation. The drought monitor continues to show the increased expansion of dryness in the state. The cumulative rainfall since April 1st is almost 10 inches under the 30-year normal of 23.09 for this time of year.

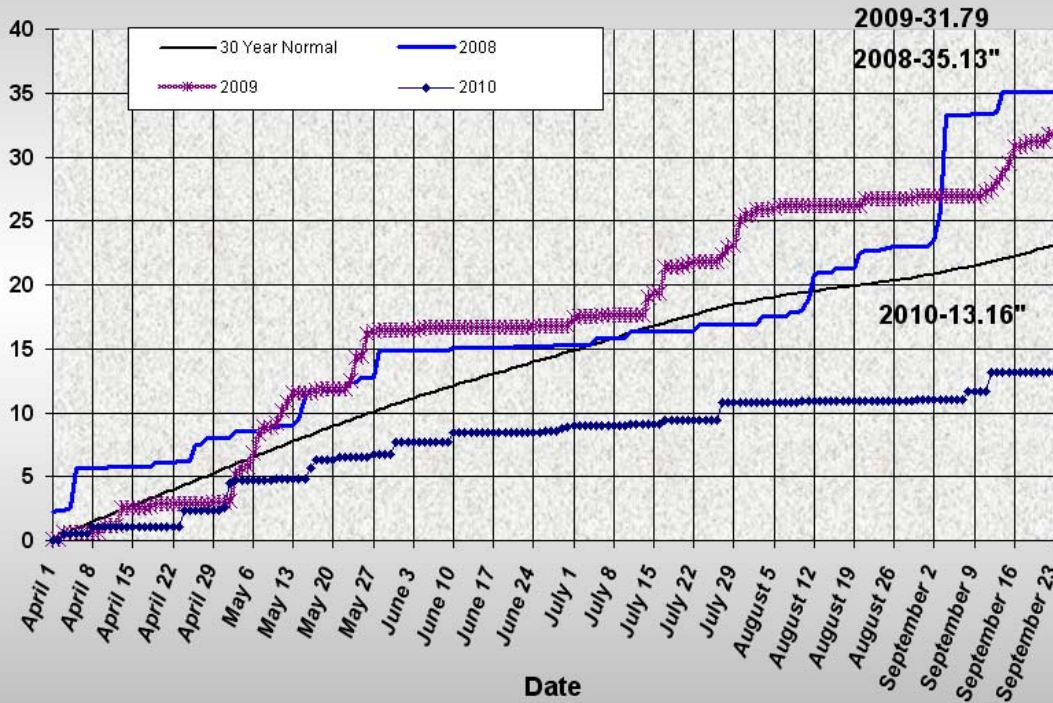
**Daily Temperature Ranges*
Stoneville, MS**



*Daily values are for a 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. CDT on the date shown

**2008/2010 Growing Season Comparative Cumulative Precipitation
Actual vs. Normal
Stoneville, MS**

30 Yr Norm-23.09"



The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook does expect a prolonged change of below-average temperatures with above-average rain chances between the 28th of September to 2nd of October. The tropical situation remains vigorous, but with no forecast of concern in this particular region through midweek.

Local Normal Temperatures 9/23 to 9/29:

Tunica:	High	80-83	Low	56-59
Stoneville:	High	81-83	Low	57-61
Vicksburg:	High	84-86	Low	59-62

For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez, USDA Physical Scientist: (662) 686-3395 or e-mail nlopez@oce.usda.gov



Contact Information

You may subscribe or unsubscribe from this list at anytime.

To Subscribe send "subscribe" in the text body of an email message to msc-request@lists.msstate.edu with nothing entered in the subject line and with no signature file attached.

To UnSubscribe send "unsubscribe" in the text body of an email message to msc-request@lists.msstate.edu with nothing entered in the subject line and with no signature file attached.

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